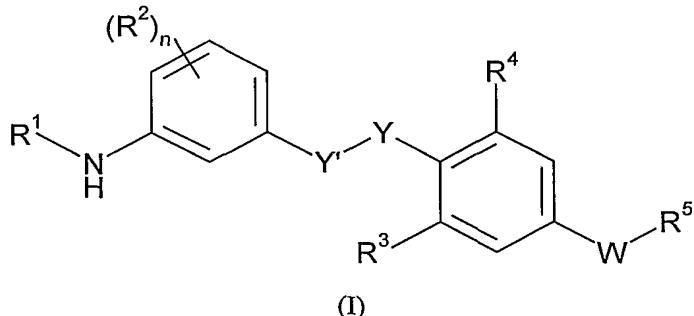


Claims

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt,

5



10 wherein:

R¹ is selected from -SO₂R⁶, -SOR⁶ and -C(O)R⁶;

R⁶ is selected from C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₂₋₈ alkenyl, C₂₋₈ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃ alkyl, phenyl and C₁₋₇ heterocyclyl, said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, methoxy, halomethoxy, dihalomethoxy, and trihalomethoxy; said cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, methoxy, halomethoxy, dihalomethoxy, trihalomethoxy, haloC₁₋₄ alkyl, dihaloC₁₋₄ alkyl and trihaloC₁₋₄ alkyl;

20

Each R² is independently selected from halogen, mercapto, nitro, cyano, alkoxy, -CO₂R^c, -CONHR^c, -CHO, -SO₂R⁶, -SO₂NHR⁶, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, NHR¹ and N(R¹)₂, said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkoxy groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, methoxy, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, mercapto, nitro, cyano, halomethoxy, dihalomethoxy, and trihalomethoxy;

25

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

Y and Y' together are -C(R^a)=C(R^a)-,

30 or alternatively Y and Y' are independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and -CH(R^a)-, with the proviso that at least one of Y and Y' is -CH(R^a)- and the further proviso that when one of Y and Y'

is oxygen or sulphur, then R^a is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, or trifluoromethyl;

R^a is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, mercapto, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl,

5 C₁₋₄ alkoxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, fluoromethylthio, difluoromethylthio and thiotrifluoromethyl;

R^{a'} is selected from hydrogen, halogen, mercapto, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy,

10 methylthio, fluoromethylthio, difluoromethylthio and thiotrifluoromethyl;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, fluoromethylthio, difluoromethylthio and trifluoromethylthio;

15 W is selected from C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₂₋₃ alkenylene, C₂₋₃ alkynylene, N(R^b)-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)-C₁₋₃ alkylene, S-C₁₋₃ alkylene, O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)NH-C₁₋₃ alkylene and NH(CO)-C₀₋₃ alkylene, said alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1 or 2 groups selected from hydroxy, mercapto, amino, halo, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, haloC₁₋₃ alkyl, dihaloC₁₋₃ alkyl, trihaloC₁₋₃ alkyl, haloC₁₋₃ alkoxy, dihaloC₁₋₃ alkoxy and trihaloC₁₋₃ alkoxy;

R^b is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, and trifluoromethoxy;

25 R⁵ is selected from -CO₂R^c, -PO(OR^c)₂, -PO(OR^c)NH₂, -SO₂OR^c, -COCO₂R^c, CONR^cOR^c, -SO₂NHR^c, -NHSO₂R^c, -CONHSO₂R^c, and -SO₂NHCOR^c;

30 Each R^c is independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl and C₂₋₄ alkynyl;

R^{c'} is selected from R^c, C₅₋₁₀ aryl and C₅₋₁₀ aryl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from amino, hydroxy, halogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl.

35 2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R¹, R², n, R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1;

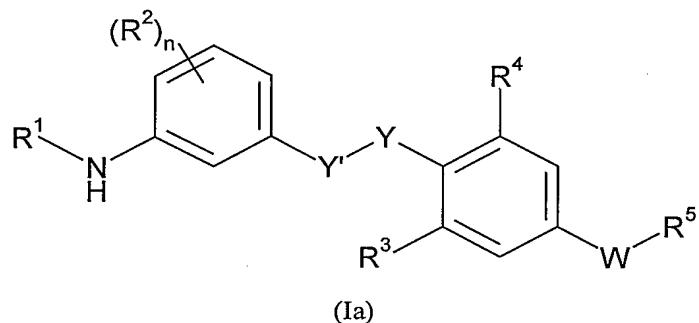
Y and Y' are independently selected from oxygen, sulphur or -CH(R^a)-, with the proviso that at least one of Y and Y' is -CH(R^a)- and the further proviso that when one of Y and Y' is oxygen or sulphur, then R^a is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, or trifluoromethyl; and

5

W is selected from C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₂₋₃ alkenylene, C₂₋₃ alkynylene, N(R^b)-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)-C₁₋₃ alkylene, S-C₁₋₃ alkylene, O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)NH-C₁₋₃ alkylene and NH(CO)-C₀₋₃ alkylene, said alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1 or 2 groups selected from hydroxy, mercapto, amino, halo, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, haloC₁₋₃ alkyl, 10 dihaloC₁₋₃ alkyl, trihaloC₁₋₃ alkyl, haloC₁₋₃ alkoxy, dihaloC₁₋₃ alkoxy and trihaloC₁₋₃ alkoxy.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 which is a compound according to formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt,

15



wherein:

20 R¹ is selected from -SO₂R⁶ and -C(O)R⁶;

R⁶ is selected from C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃ alkyl, phenyl and C₃₋₇ heterocyclyl, said alkyl or alkenyl groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, methoxy, halomethoxy, 25 dihalomethoxy and trihalomethoxy; said cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from halogen, methyl, methoxy, halomethoxy, dihalomethoxy, and trihalomethoxy;

Each R² is independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₂ alkyl, C₂₋₃ alkenyl, C₂₋₃ alkynyl, C₁₋₂ alkoxy, 30 haloC₁₋₂ alkyl, dihaloC₁₋₂ alkyl, and trihaloC₁₋₂ alkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

Y and Y' together are $-C(R^a)=C(R^{a'})-$,
or alternatively Y is O or S, and Y' is $CH(R^a)$;

5

R^a is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₂ alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl and trifluoromethyl;

$R^{a'}$ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₂ alkyl;

10 R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, fluoromethylthio, difluoromethylthio and trifluoromethylthio;

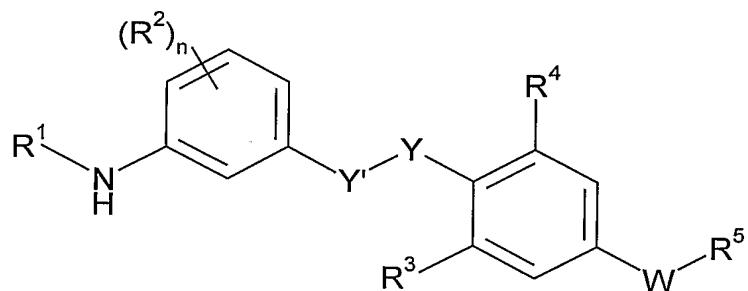
15 W is selected from C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₂₋₃ alkenylene, O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)-C₁₋₂ alkylene, C(O)NH-C₁₋₂ alkylene and NH(CO)-C₁₋₂ alkylene; the alkylene group or portion of a group optionally being substituted with one or more halo groups.

R^5 is selected from -CO₂R^c, -PO(OR^c)₂, -SO₂OR^c, -COCO₂R^c, CONR^cOR^c and -NHSO₂R^c;

20 Each R^c is independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

$R^{c'}$ is selected from R^c, phenyl and phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from amino, hydroxyl, halogen or methyl.

25 4. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 which is a compound according to formula (Ib) or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt,



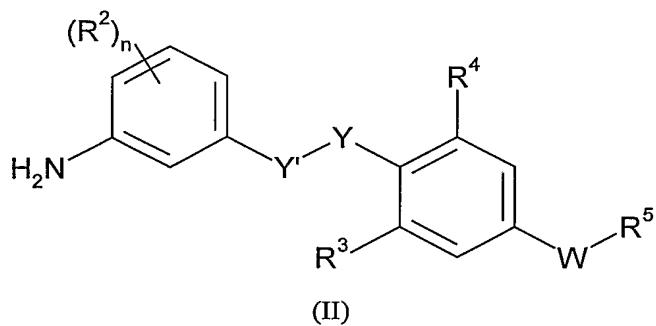
wherein:

- R¹ is selected from -SO₂R⁶ and -C(O)R⁶;
- 5 R⁶ is selected from C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃ alkyl, said alkyl or alkenyl groups or portions of groups optionally being substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, methoxy, halomethoxy, dihalomethoxy and trihalomethoxy;
- 10 Each R² is independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₂ alkyl, C₂₋₃ alkenyl, C₂₋₃ alkynyl, C₁₋₂ alkoxy, haloC₁₋₂ alkyl, dihaloC₁₋₂ alkyl, and trihaloC₁₋₂ alkyl;
- n is 0, 1 or 2;
- 15 Y and Y' together are -C(R^a)=C(R^a)-, or alternatively Y is O, and Y' is CH(R^a);
- R^a is selected from hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₂ alkyl;
- 20 R^a' is selected from hydrogen, halogen, and C₁₋₂ alkyl;
- R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, and C₁₋₄ alkoxy;
- 25 W is selected from C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₂₋₃ alkenylene, O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkylene, C(O)NH-C₁₋₂ alkylene and NH(CO)-C₁₋₂ alkylene; the alkylene group or portion of a group optionally being substituted with one or more halo groups.
- 30 R⁵ is -CO₂R^c;
- Each R^c is independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl.
5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 for use as a medicament.
- 35 6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition associated with a disease or disorder associated with thyroid receptor activity.

7. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a disease or disorder associated with thyroid receptor activity in a mammal, which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt.
5
8. Use of a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of a
10 disease or disorder associated with thyroid receptor activity.
9. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide, solvate or salt thereof, including a salt of such an ester or amide, and a solvate of such an ester, amide or salt, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
15
10. A pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 9 further comprising an additional therapeutic agent selected from cholesterol/lipid lowering agents, hypolipidemic agents, anti-atherosclerotic agents, anti-diabetic agents, anti-osteoporosis agents, anti-obesity agents, growth promoting agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-anxiety agents, anti-depressants, anti-hypertensive agents, cardiac
20 glycosides, appetite suppressants, bone resorption inhibitors, thyroid mimetics, anabolic agents, anti-tumor agents and retinoids.
11. Use of a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 4 in labelled form as a diagnostic agent for the diagnosis of conditions condition associated with a disease or disorder associated with thyroid
25 receptor activity.
12. A method of discovering a ligand of the thyroid hormone receptor which comprising use of a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 4 or a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 4 in labelled form, as a reference compound.
30
13. A compound as claimed in claim 6, a method as claimed in claim 7, a use as claimed in claim 8 or claim 11, or a pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the condition associated with a disease or disorder associated with thyroid receptor activity is selected from (1) hypercholesterolemia, dyslipidemia or any other lipid disorder manifested by an unbalance
35 of blood or tissue lipid levels ; (2) atherosclerosis; (3) replacement therapy in elderly subjects with hypothyroidism who are at risk for cardiovascular complications; (4) replacement therapy in elderly subjects with subclinical hypothyroidism who are at risk for cardiovascular complications; (5)

obesity; (6) diabetes (7) depression; (8) osteoporosis (especially in combination with a bone resorption inhibitor); (9) goiter; (10) thyroid cancer; (11) cardiovascular disease or congestive heart failure; (12) glaucoma; and (13) skin disorders.

- 5 14. A method for preparing a compound of formula (I) as described in claim 1 comprising a step of reacting
 - a compound of formula (II)



10

wherein R², n, Y', Y, R³, R⁴, W and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1

- 15 - with a compound of formula R¹-L, wherein R¹ is as defined in claim 1 and L is a suitable leaving group, optionally in the presence of a suitable base, followed optionally by interconversion to another compound as described in claim 1.

15. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the additional therapeutic agent is a hypolipidemic agent selected from the group consisting of an acyl coenzyme A cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) inhibitor, a microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) inhibitor, a cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) inhibitor, a ileal bile acid transporter (IBAT) inhibitor, any cholesterol absorption inhibitor, a 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitor, a squalene synthetase inhibitor, a bile acid sequestrant, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-alpha agonist, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-delta agonist, any peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-gamma/delta dual agonist, any peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-alpha/delta dual agonist, a nicotinic acid or a derivative thereof, and a thiazolidinedione or a derivative thereof.

- 30 16. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the additional therapeutic agent is a hypolipidemic agent selected from the group consisting of ezetimibe, simvastatin, atorvastatin,

rosuvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, fenofibrate, gemfibrozil and bezafibrate.

17. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the additional therapeutic agent is
5 an antidiabetic agent selected from the group consisting of a biguanide, a glucosidase inhibitor, a meglitinide, a sulfonylurea, a thiazolidinedione, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-alpha agonist, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR)-gamma agonist, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR) alpha/gamma dual agonist, a sodium glucose co-transporter (SGLT) 1, 2 or 3 inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, an aP2 inhibitor, a
10 glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), a dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor, a glucocorticoid (GR) antagonist and insulin.

18. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the additional therapeutic agent is
an antidiabetic agent selected from the group consisting of metformin, glyburide, glimepiride,
15 glipyride, glipizide, chlorpropamide, gliclazide, acarbose, miglitol, troglitazone, pioglitazone, englitazone, darglitazone, rosiglitazone and insulin.

19. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the additional therapeutic agent is
an anti-obesity agent is selected from the group consisting of an aP2 inhibitor, a peroxisome
20 proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR) gamma antagonist, a peroxisome proliferator-activator receptor (PPAR) delta agonist, a beta-3 adrenergic agonist, a lipase inhibitor, a serotonin reuptake inhibitor and an anorectic agent.